

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 00611 161417Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /111 W
-----010519 161417Z /43

P R 152229Z NOV 77
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 530
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0611

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI PDIP ET SO CU
SUBJ: CUBANS EXPRESS REGRET AT SOMALI BREAK

1. SUMMARY: CUBANS ARE TAKING CONTRITE LINE WITH
SOMALIS IN HAVANA. END SUMMARY

2. SOMALI FIRST SDCRETARY YASSIN, NOVEMBER 15, TOLD
USINT OFFICER (GLASSMAN) THAT CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER
MALMIERCA CALLED IN SOMALI AMBASSADOR, NOVEMBER 13, TO
INFORM HIM OF CONDITIONS OF DEPARTURE OF SOMALI PERSONNEL.
MALMIERCA, ACCORDING TO YASSIN, WAS EXTREMELY CONTRITE--
EXPRESSING HIS SORROW THAT BREAK WAS OCCURRING. MALMIERCA
ALLOWED THAT PERHAPS HIS GRANMA STATEMENT (HAVANA 535) HAD
BEEN WRITTEN WITH UNDUE HARSHNESS. HE MADE NO EFFORT,
HOWEVER, TO ARGUE AGAINST COURSE SOMALIS HAVE TAKEN.

3. MALMIERCA SAID THAT CUBANS WOULD PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE
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ASSISTANCE TO ALLOW SOMALIS TO DEPART WITH AS MINIMUM
STRAIN AS POSSIBLE BY EVEING OF NOVEMBER 16. (FYI
SOMALIS STATE, HOWEVER, THAT CUBANS HAVE BEGUN TO INTER-
FERE WITH THEIR TELEX COMMUNICATION WITH SOMALI MISSION
IN NEW YORK.) MALMIERCA ALSO SAID THAT, DESPITE FACT THAT
CUBAN EXPERTS HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM SOMALIA, CUBA WOULD
ALLOW SOMALI STUDENTS HERE, INCLUDING MILITARY PERSONNEL,

TO STAY ON. (FYI YASSIN SAID THERE ARE CURRENTLY SOME EIGHTY SOMALI STUDENTS HERE, INCLUDING SOME THIRTY WHO ARE RECEIVING MILITARY TRAINING. YASSIN SAID NO INSTRUCTIONS HAD YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM MOGADISCIO, BUT PRESUMABLY SOMALIA WOULD BE LOOKING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THESE STUDENTS ELSEWHERE. CUBAN MILITARY IN SOMALIA, HE SAID, HAVE ALREADY RETURNED TO CUBA.)

4. COMMENT: CUBAN PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA AS OF MORNING, NOVEMBER 15, HAVE STILL NOT MENTIONED BREAK IN RELATIONS. SOMALIS HERE INTERPRET ABSENCE OF CUBAN ATTACKS AS ANOTHER SIGN THAT CUBANS REGRET TURN OF EVENTS WITH SOMALIA AND WISH, THROUGH DISPLAY OF MODERATION, TO MAKE FUTURE RECONCILIATION A VIABLE POSSIBILITY. SOMALIS HERE TEND TO ACCEPT MALMIERCA STORY THAT EXCESSES OF LANGUAGE IN CUBAN STATEMENT ON ETHIOPIA CONSTITUTED MISCALCULATION, SINCE THEY WERE OUT OF CHARACTER WITH EARLIER CUBAN VERBAL RESTRAINT. USINT NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT MALMIERCA DECLARATION, WHICH PRESUMABLY TRIGGERED SIAD'S DECISION, COINCIDED WITH PORBABLE VISIT HERE OF MENGISTU. HARSHNESS OF STATEMENT WAS PRESUMABLY INTENDED TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF MENGISTU, PARTICULARLY IN ABSENCE OF CUBAN PROVISION OF MORE SUBSTANTIAL, PHYSICAL ASSISTANCE. WHILE CUBANS MAY EVENTUALLY HANDLE SOMALI BREAK IN TONE MORE OF SORROW THAN ANGER, WE DOUBT WHETHER THEIR PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA WILL FLAG. WE NOTE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT CUBAN MEDIA
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HAVE, FOR LAST TWO DAYS, PARROTED MENGISTU LINE THAT LATE DIRG VICE-PRESIDENT ATNAFU WAS CIA AGENT.
LANE

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TAGS: MILI, PDIP, ET, SO, CU
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